

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

In response to the Office Action mailed July 14, 2005, Applicants propose to amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the proposed amendment and following remarks. In this Amendment there is no proposed claim cancellation or addition so that claims 1-3 and 7-11 remain pending. Applying the previously imposed species election requirement and the election, the Examiner withdrew from examination new claims 9-11. Since these claims ultimately depend from claim 1, the only pending independent claim, those claims 9-11 must be rejoined to the prosecution, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.141, upon the allowance of claim 1.

It is proposed in this Amendment to amend claim 1 to include a limitation expressly that is inherently present in the claim 1 that was previously examined. In that examined claim 1, the film, which is a polymer with a low dielectric constant, was described as at least partially covering the first main electrodes and the control electrodes, providing insulation between the first main electrodes and the control electrodes. In addition, examined claim 1 stated that chip surface electrode at least partially covered that low dielectric constant polymer film yet contacted the second main electrodes. Of course, there could not be any such contact of the chip surface electrode and the second main electrodes if those second main electrodes, like the first main electrodes and control electrodes, were covered by the low dielectric constant polymer film. Thus, as stated in the argument accompanying the previous amendment, the second main electrodes must be exposed from the film in order to be contacted by the chip surface electrode. The Examiner made a different interpretation of the claim language, one that is not consistent with the disclosure of the patent application nor with the substance of the claim language. To avoid the possibility that that improper interpretation of the language of previously examined claim 1 might be maintained, amended claim 1 presented here expressly states that the film made of a polymer with a low dielectric constant does not cover the second main electrodes.

In the Office Action mailed July 14, 2005, claim 1 was again rejected as anticipated by Noguchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,483,176 hereinafter Noguchi). This rejection is still respectfully traversed.

Applicants again respectfully point out that Noguchi does not describe an arrangement in which the second main electrodes are not covered by the low dielectric constant polymer film, so that they are contacted by the chip surface electrode. Further, with regard to the clarification of claim 1 presented here, it is impossible to state with respect with any disclosure of Noguchi that film 13 does not cover the second main electrodes. Accordingly, clarified claim 1 is clearly distinct from and patentable over Noguchi so that that claim should now be allowed.

Claim 2 was newly rejected as obvious over Noguchi in view of Haematsu (U.S. Patent 6,664,624). This rejection is respectfully traversed on two different grounds.

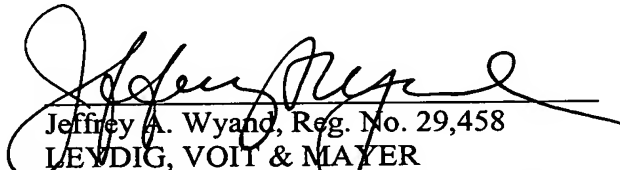
First, the rejection of claim 2, a claim that depends from claim 1, depends upon the propriety of the rejection of claim 1 as anticipated by Noguchi. Since that rejection is erroneous, the rejection of claim 2 likewise fails upon the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1. Second, upon the perfection of the priority claim of the present patent application, Haematsu is not prior art that can be applied to reject claims of the present patent application. Should the rejection be maintained, Applicants reserve the right to remove Haematsu as prior art by perfecting their priority claim.

Claim 3 was again rejected as unpatentable over Noguchi in view of Zhao (U.S. Patent 6,071,809). This rejection is again respectfully traversed. As with the other rejections, the propriety of the rejection of claim 3 depends upon the anticipation of claim 1 by Noguchi, a rejection that cannot be maintained with regard to amended claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of both claims 1 and 3 should be withdrawn.

Finally, claims 7 and 8 were rejected as unpatentable over Noguchi in view of the prior art described in the patent application. This rejection is also traversed as depending upon the rejection of claim 1, a rejection that cannot be maintained as to the claim 1 presented here.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, the consequent withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, and 8, and rejoining of claims 9-11 to the prosecution, with all of these claims allowed, are earnestly solicited.

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JAW:ves